

Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 24, 2013

One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont, CA

SPECIAL MEETING

CLOSED SESSION 7:05 P.M.

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION per Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) – Name of case: Sarraile v. City of Belmont, Case #CIV 518919

Attended by: Councilmembers Wozniak, Lieberman, Feierbach, City Manager Scoles, City Attorney Rennie. Councilmembers Braunstein and Warden were absent, and City Clerk Cook was excused from attending.

ADJOURNMENT at this time being 7:20 P.M.

Terri Cook

City Clerk

This meeting was not tape recorded or videotaped

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER 7:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Lieberman, Braunstein (arr 8:40 p.m.), Feierbach, Warden, Wozniak

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: None

Staff Present: City Manager Scoles, City Attorney Rennie, Community Development Director de Melo, Parks and Recreation Director Gervais, Public Works Director Oskoui, Information Services Director Mitchell, City Treasurer Violet, City Clerk Cook

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by the Belmont Community Players

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

No report.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation to Belmont Community Players (Melodrama)

Mayor Wozniak read the proclamation. Members of the Belmont Community Players outlined the dates for their upcoming melodrama to be held at Barrett Community Center.

Save the Music Festival

Festival Chairperson Alan Sarver outlined the events that would be taking place at the upcoming Save the Music Festival at Twin Pines Park on October 6th.

Proclamation for Walk to School Day

Michael Miliken, Belmont-Redwood Shores School District Superintendent, introduced himself, provided a brief background, and thanked City staff for their assistance during the recent construction activities at several of the school sites.

Daina Lujan, San Mateo County Office of Education, explained that she is the Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator for the County.

Mayor Wozniak presented the proclamation recognizing International Walk to School Day as October 9, 2013.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Perry Kennan, Belmont resident, spoke regarding quality of staff reports and expressed concerns about the wording on a flyer received about the upcoming Candidate Forum.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Wozniak announced an upcoming home safety and fraud prevention workshop, as well as a Family Fit Fun Day at Barrett Community Center. She announced the upcoming candidate forum to be held on September 26th. She also commented regarding the recent Ralston Avenue Corridor Study Meeting.

Councilmember Lieberman commended City staff for its organization of and participation in the recent Coastal Cleanup Day.

ITEMS APPROVED ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to Approve Response to the 2013 Grand Jury Report "San Mateo County Special Districts: Who is Really in Charge of the Taxpayer's Money? The Mosquito District Embezzlement: Is it the Tip of the Iceberg?"

Resolution 2013-097 of the City Council Approving Amendment #1 to the Design Professional Services Agreement with Brown and Caldwell for the San Juan Sewer Pump Station Design Development for an Amount not to Exceed \$14,192

Resolution 2013-098 of the City Council Authorizing a Service Agreement with MuniServices to Perform a Transient Occupancy Tax Audit for an Amount not to Exceed \$14,000

Resolution 2013-099 of the City Council Approving the Emergency Purchase of a Soft Start from Telstar Instruments, Inc. for the San Juan Sewer Pump Station in the Amount of \$7,414.77 and Authorizing the Purchase of a Back-Up Soft Start for an Amount not to Exceed \$7,500

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Feierbach, seconded by Councilmember Lieberman, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by a show of hands (4-0, Braunstein absent).

OTHER BUSINESS

Resolution of the City Council Allocating up to \$250,000 in Contingency Funding Towards FY 2014 Council Priorities

Finance Director Fil provided a background of the work plan for the Council priorities. He noted that an allocation towards priorities is discretionary, and he pointed out that the total dollar amount for all projects well exceeds the \$250,000.

Discussion ensued regarding the process to prioritize and allocate funding for various projects.

In response to Mayor Wozniak, Parks and Recreation Director Gervais clarified that no budget has been developed yet for the potential parks foundation, and that if funding were allocated, the monies could be used for professional assistance to get started.

Kristin Mercer, Belmont resident, suggested that the Council allocate monies primarily to the Ralston Avenue Corridor Study as a way to provide the greatest benefit to the most people. She pointed out that this project touches on many of the City's goals and objectives.

Gladwyn d'Souza, Belmont resident, recommended allocating monies for the Ralston Avenue Corridor Study as a way to leverage money for grants to make improvements.

Perry Kennan, Belmont resident, recommended surveying the citizens to ask them what they want and if they are prepared to pay for it. He suggested utilizing a subcommittee to develop questions and to random sample a cross-section of the community.

Discussion ensued regarding the community survey and the General Plan update.

Community Development Director de Melo stated that staff was working on a draft circulation element, and he outlined the funds available through the General Plan maintenance fee.

Mayor Wozniak stated that her priorities included 1) Ralston Avenue Traffic Study; 2) Parks Foundation; and 3) General Plan Update. She suggested implementing low-cost non-engineering solutions on Ralston Avenue.

In response to Mayor Wozniak, City Manager Scoles noted that the \$250,000 contingency is one-time money, and he recommended not using those funds to hire personnel with ongoing costs.

Councilmember Feierbach concurred regarding implementing low-cost solutions on Ralston Avenue. She also suggested using contingency monies to leverage other funds wherever possible, and she expressed support for the General Plan Update.

Public Works Director Oskoui clarified that staff was already seeking grants for traffic solutions.

Councilmember Lieberman stated that his priorities included: 1) low-cost solutions on Ralston Avenue; 2) economic development; 3) Parks foundation; 4) capital financing for infrastructure; 5) athletic field improvements; and 6) Safe Routes to Schools. He suggested incorporating item 6 into the Ralston Study and to work cooperatively with the school district to implement solutions.

Public Works Director Oskoui clarified that the Ralston Corridor Study solely affected Ralston Avenue, although there was a potential for overlap with the Safe Routes to School project and funds.

Councilmember Warden stated that his priorities included: 1) Ralston Avenue, especially low-cost solutions; 2) Solar Energy policy; 3) Parks Foundation; 4) sustainability issues; 5) turf; 6) economic development, and 7) General Plan and Zoning Update. He noted that with regard to item 7, he would not support allocating additional funds beyond what is already allocated.

(At this time being 8:40 p.m., Councilmember Braunstein arrived at the meeting.)

Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Braunstein expressed concern regarding the budget with regard to the athletic field project. He stated that his priorities included: 1) capital financing for infrastructure; 2) economic development; 3) Safe Routes to Schools; 4) Ralston Corridor Study; 5) Village Zoning.

Discussion ensued. Council concurred to allocate monies to the Ralston Corridor Study, the Parks Foundation, economic development, and the Sports Complex Turf Project.

Finance Director Fil stated that staff could formulate an allocation and bring it back as a resolution on the next council meeting.

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, AND COUNCIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSIGNMENT UPDATES, AND STAFF ITEMS

Verbal report from Councilmembers on Intergovernmental (IGR) and Subcommittee Assignments

Mayor Wozniak reported on recent SBWMA (South Bayside Waste Management Authority) meetings she attended. She also noted the opening of Fare, a new restaurant on El Camino Real.

Councilmember Lieberman outlined the topics discussed at a recent SBSA (South Bayside System Authority) meeting.

Verbal Report from City Manager

City Manager Scoles stated that almost 90 volunteers removed nearly 600 pounds of trash from the creeks in Belmont during Creek Cleanup Day. He noted that second quarter sales tax revenues have increased six percent. He commented regarding the Ralston Avenue Corridor Study meeting held recently. He announced that a deposit was made on the Bishop Road properties, and the balance would be paid soon. He also noted that the documents should be signed by the beginning of October.

MATTERS OF COUNCIL INTEREST/CLARIFICATION

Consideration to Appoint Subcommittee to Work with City Staff, Sports Groups, and other interested parties to Identify and Propose an Improved Turf Design for the Belmont Sports Complex (Lieberman)

Councilmember Lieberman stated that the sports groups have been working with staff regarding the turf plan for the Sports Complex. He pointed out that the goal was to provide a plan to accommodate both baseball and soccer, and that the baseball group is not satisfied with the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission. He proposed forming a subcommittee to continue to look into this matter, to include representatives from Oracle, which owns the property adjacent. He stated that alternative solutions were not explored.

Rich Bortoli, Parks and Recreation Commissioner/Sports Advisory Board, expressed support for meeting with Oracle representatives, but suggested that the project continue to move forward. He expressed concern regarding the condition of the North Field. He pointed out that the Sports Advisory Committee has been meeting for two years relative to this project. He noted that a plan is needed to apply for grants and to seek donations. He suggested that the plan could be amended in the future if something is worked out with Oracle.

Jay Anthony, Pony Baseball League/Sports Advisory Board, expressed support for Councilmember Lieberman's proposal, and suggested that the upcoming City Council discussion on this project move forward as planned.

Mayor Wozniak stated that she had previously supported placing this item on tonight's agenda, but it was moved to October 8. She recommended discussing the subcommittee as part of that discussion.

Councilmember Feierbach stated that she spoke with a representative from Oracle who advised that Oracle is not interested in doing anything. She pointed out that they have entitlements for the property.

Councilmember Lieberman stated that he has ideas for Oracle and prefers not to discuss them publicly at this time.

Councilmember Braunstein expressed a desire to get to a better place with the sports groups.

Councilmember Warden stated that this project has been discussed over many meetings. He noted that Oracle is likely not interested. He does not support the proposal and supports moving forward with this project.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 9:27 p.m.

Terri Cook

City Clerk

This meeting was tape recorded videotaped